GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4623
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2015
EL NINO
Hari Shri G.

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US and Australian meteorological agencies have predicted unusual weather patterns that often weaken rains in India and predicted 50-50 chance of El Nino this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any further study on the said findings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps proposed to mitigate its adverse impact in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a-b) Yes Madam. In March, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) had issued a bulletin indicating possibility of evolution of an El Nino during the middle of this year. This indication was also supported by the ENSO outlooks issued by International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) , USA and Bureau of Meteorology, Australia. However, it may be mentioned that the latest ENSO outlook from various agencies indicate high probability (60-70%) for the prevalence of weak El Nino conditions during the 2015 monsoon season.

(c-d) Yes Madam. Earth System Science Organization-India Meteorological Department (ESSO-IMD) is closely monitoring the El Nino conditions continuously and regular watch is kept on the Sea Surface Temperature changes over the tropical Pacific Ocean. ESSO institutions are running a coupled model to asses updated El Nino forecast scenario every month. All associated factors of monsoon rainfall variability including EL Nino/La Nina are fully accounted for the assessment of Long Range Forecast (LRF) of seasonal summer monsoon rainfall for the country as a whole. Based on this various ministries / departments of Government shall appropriately formulate their respective action/contingency plans.